

a1 amended  
assembly, comprising a rolling element substantially confined between an inner and an outer race, and a stator assembly, the system comprising:

one or more flexible dampers, each having a first stiffness; and  
a plurality of more rigid bumpers, each of said plurality having a second stiffness, wherein said second stiffness is greater than said first stiffness.

a2  
6. (Amended) The damping system as recited in claim 5, wherein the first clearance is about 13 to about 17 mils.

a3  
8. (Amended) The damping system as recited in claim 5, wherein the second clearance is about 8 to about 12 mils.

a4  
12. (Amended) The damping system as recited in claim 11, wherein said second clearance has a magnitude of about 8 to about 12 mils.

a5  
23. (Amended) The bearing assembly system as recited in claim 22, wherein the first clearance is about 13 to about 17 mils.

a6  
25. (Amended) The bearing assembly system as recited in claim 22, wherein the second clearance is about 8 to about 12 mils.

a7  
29. (Amended) The bearing assembly system as recited in claim 28, wherein said second clearance has a magnitude of about 8 to about 12 mils.

a8  
39. (Amended) An evacuated energy storage device, said device comprising:  
a bearing assembly; said bearing assembly further comprising:  
an inner race,  
an outer race,  
a rolling element, wherein said rolling element is substantially confined between said inner and said outer race;  
a rotor assembly that is rotatably supported and guided by said bearing

*a3  
amended*  
assembly;

a stator assembly; and

a dual stiffness damping system, the system comprising:

one or more flexible dampers, each having a first stiffness; and a

plurality of more rigid bumpers, each of said plurality having a second stiffness, wherein said stiffness is greater than first stiffness.

*a9*  
44. (Amended) The evacuated energy storage device as recited in claim 43, wherein the first clearance is about 13 to about 17 mils.

45. (Amended) The evacuated energy storage device as recited in claim 44, wherein the second clearance device is about 8 to about 12 mils.

*a10*  
54. (Amended) The evacuated energy storage device as recited in claim 53, wherein the first clearance is about 13 to about 17 mils.

*a11*  
56. (Amended) The evacuated energy storage device as recited in claim 53, wherein the second clearance is about 8 to about 12 mils.

*a12*  
60. (Amended) The evacuated energy storage device as recited in claim 59, wherein said second clearance has a magnitude of about 8 to about 12 mils.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-35 and 39-64 are all of the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 23, 25, 29, 39, 44, 45, 54, 56, and 60 have been amended herein. Claims 36-38 have been cancelled herein.

Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims were made to clarify the already definite claims, and not for reasons related to patentability. Specifically, claims 6, 8, 12, 23, 25, 29, 44, 45, 54, 56, and 60 were amended to make it more clear that the term "about" modifies both endpoints of the stated ranges. Regarding claims 1 and